

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

- The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) must take action at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to improve the quality of wastewaters discharged to the environment in order to meet new water quality standards established by the State of New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission.
- Additionally, NNSA must take action at LANL to meet internal Department of Energy (DOE) orders and goals to reduce the amount of potable water used by its industrial operations. The purpose of this conservation measure is to enhance the environmental stewardship of this natural resource in recognition of
 - the limited amount of available groundwater in the New Mexico desert environment;
 - the growing local area populations and increasing groundwater consumption demands;
 - and, the decade-long, region-wide drought conditions.

Wherever possible and practicable, NNSA is trying to find ways to reuse wastewater.

- DOE also must address Consent Order needs related to legacy contaminants present in Sandia Canyon at LANL. DOE needs to comply with the 2005 Consent Order (between the State of New Mexico, DOE, and LANS) for site contamination investigation and remediation, and also must comply with other applicable laws and regulations.
- To meet these needs, NNSA is proposing to
 - expand the wastewater treatment capabilities of the existing Sanitary Effluent Reduction Facility (SERF);
 - expand the treated wastewater distribution system so that the wastewater can be reused in cooling towers thereby decreasing potable water consumption;
 - undertake environmental remediation actions in Sandia Canyon as directed by the State of New Mexico Environment Department.